

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 14 and 15 are currently being canceled (whereby Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the withdrawn claims 7-10 in a divisional application, if desired).

Claims 5, 11-13, 16 and 17 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This response amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 5, 11-13, 16 and 17 are now pending in this application.

Request for Entry of After-final Amendment and Reply:

It is respectfully requested that this after-final Amendment and Reply be considered and entered, since it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance in accordance with the statements made on page 3 of the Office Action.

Indefiniteness Rejection of Claim 16:

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claim 16 has been amended in accordance with the helpful suggestions provided in the Office Action, whereby the 'middle portion' has been clarified as being with respect to a horizontal direction. Also, features have been added to claim 16 as suggested on page 3 of the Office Action, in order to distinguish that claim over the cited art of record.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Calsonic's JP-2002-272327; claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calsonic's JP '327 as applied to claims 1-6 and 13, and further in view of Calsonic's JP 11-5431; and claim 16 was rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art applied to claim 6 and further in view of JP 11-198636. These rejections are traversed for the reasons given below.

Claim 16 has been amended to place that claim in independent form and to include the features of its base claim and all intervening claims, as well as to include the suggestions made in the Office Action to overcome the indefiniteness rejection of that claim and to include features suggested in the Office Action to distinguish that claim over the cited art of record.

In particular, as correctly recognized on page 3 of the Office Action, JP 11-198636, as well as the other cited art of record, seeks to define three separate flows to the respective case outlets, whereby presently pending independent claim 16 clearly distinguishes over the cited art of record by reciting that the “upper end of the baffle plate is mounted onto a middle portion of the laterally extending recess with respect to a horizontal direction at a position substantially less than the distance to the ventilation outlet opening of the casing to thereby enhance mixing in said air mix chamber.”

Since all of the other presently pending claims have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16, these claims are also in allowable form.

Conclusion:

Therefore, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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